

Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission

Annual Report 2014

to the

Jefferson County Board of Supervisors
Jefferson County Courthouse, Jefferson, WI

September 9, 2014

Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission (JCHSPC)

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The JCHSPC helps Jefferson County to comply with **Wisconsin State Act 395**. The Act is described as follows:

“In Wisconsin, the primary historic preservation legislation is Wisconsin Act 395. Adopted in 1987, this legislation expresses the state's approach and commitment to historic preservation. It states:

The historical and cultural foundations of this state should be preserved as a living part of its community life and development... Increased knowledge of historic resources, the establishment of better means of identifying and administering them and the encouragement of their preservation will improve the planning of governmentally assisted projects and will assist economic growth and development... This act created the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places, which, like the National Register of Historic Places, lists "districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects which are significant in national, state, or local history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture." Criteria for the State Register are also similar to those of the National Register.” (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:4294963828-4294961311&dsRecordDetails=R:CS113>)

We have started to accomplish the goals set by Act 395 in the rural areas of the Jefferson County, with the completion of the four historic surveys. Our Commission has much more work to do. The historic properties that have been surveyed are fragile cultural resources. Without a determined commitment to help preserve them, these properties may someday no longer be a part of our cultural heritage. We now need to look carefully at the “Economics of Preservation” considering how historic preservation can provide property owners with tax credits, potentially increase their property values, and enhance the livability within our communities for all of our citizens.

An important part of the Economics of Preservation is “Heritage Tourism,” which has the potential to boost our local economy. To quote the Wisconsin Department of Tourism: “...in 2011 tourism had a \$16 billion impact on the state economy, with tourism generating \$1.3 billion in state and local revenues and sustaining 1 in every 13 jobs in the state.”

(<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:4294963828-4294961311&dsRecordDetails=R:CS117>)

The JCHSPC looks forward to working with the Jefferson County Board, and the citizens of our county to help preserve, the delicate balance of our remaining rural historic buildings. Please stop in at one of our monthly Commission meetings, and learn more about how you can help us with our challenge, to preserve Jefferson County rural history.

JCHSPC Future Goals and Objectives

- ❖ Continue to communicate with surveyed property owners and assist them with their historic preservation efforts.
- ❖ Apply for a grant with the support of the Wisconsin Historical Society, for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) application funding for potentially eligible NRHP surveyed properties.
- ❖ Continue our partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society Preservation Department, to educate and enable our citizens.
- ❖ Work with our community leaders to create a local/county vision for the Economics of Preservation.
- ❖ Improve our website page information for outreach to our citizens.
- ❖ Fill one vacant position on Commission.

Examples of Historic Properties from the Four Quadrant's of the Historic Surveys



Northeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



Northeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



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Historic Property Included in Survey



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Southwest Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



Southwest Quadrant of Jefferson County
Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County
Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County
Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County
Historic Property Included in Survey



Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County
Historic Property Included in Survey



Meet the Commission

As Chair of this Commission I am very proud to work with the following dedicated Commission members who are very committed to helping to preserve Jefferson County history and our historic resources. I would like to thank all of them for the time and energy that they devote to our Commission.

Additionally, I would like to thank past Chairman of the Commission, Mr. John Molinaro, for all the time and effort that he has committed to the success of our Commission. His dedication to the preservation of Jefferson County history, and particularly his efforts to the the Historic Surveys of the four quadrants of Jefferson County, is truly commendable. Thank you John!

- ❖ Please keep in mind that currently, the public members of the Commission serve as volunteers, and do not receive any Jefferson County per diems for their time, or travel.
- ❖ The Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission was created by ordinance and was passed by the Jefferson County Board. The Commission is a Certified Local Government (CLG), designated by the Wisconsin Historical Society, which makes the Commission eligible for grants.

Commission Members

- ❖ **Cindy Arbiture, JCHSPC Chair** - Cindy has served as president of the Concord Historical Society, since 1993. She is the past vice-president of the Jefferson County Historic Alliance; and was the Regional Representative for Southeast WI to the Wisconsin Council for Local History, an affiliate organization of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Cindy served as the secretary of the Jefferson County Sesquicentennial Committee. She worked at Old World Wisconsin as an educator, and she is the president of Museum Professional Services, Inc., a museum exhibit design firm. Cindy and her husband Bill have been restoring their 1900's farmstead in the Town of Concord for the past 25 years.



- ❖ **Robert Birmingham, JCHSPC Vice-Chair** - Robert is the retired Wisconsin State Archaeologist at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) serving from 1989 to 2004. He was also acting Historic Preservation Division Administrator at the WHS between 1996-1997. Mr. Birmingham now teaches archaeology and biological anthropology at UW-Waukesha, and serves as the volunteer Executive Director of the Friends of Aztalan State Park. He has written many scholarly and public oriented articles and is the author of four books. Mr. Birmingham is recipient of many awards such as: Increase Lapham Medal from the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, the Wisconsin State Park Hero Award, the distinguished Steinberg Award from University of Wisconsin Press, and the Midwest Independent Book Publishers, Merit Award in History.



Commission Members

- ❖ **Kathleen Woodbury, JCHSPC Secretary** - Kathleen had been a member of the Whitewater Historical Society for many years. She had served on the Whitewater Historical Society board of directors for six years, with her last three as vice president. She also served on the Whitewater Landmarks Commission for four years, and served as the Commission's representative to the City of Whitewater committee, overseeing the restoration of the Whitewater Train Depot. Was a Wisconsin Historical Society employee from 1999 - 2005 at Old World Wisconsin. Kathleen has been a licensed Wisconsin Real Estate Broker since 2004.
- ❖ **Ed Morse, JCHSPC Member** - Ed was appointed by the Jefferson County Board to the Commission in 2014. Ed is a geologist with specialties in groundwater hydrology, engineering geology and environmental applications. He has worked as an environmental consultant for twenty years and in the field of groundwater supply for ten years, until retirement three years ago. He has also taught geology and environmental science courses at Illinois State University, Carroll College and Upper Iowa University, and is currently teaching part-time at Madison College. In the summer of 2007, he spent time in East Africa providing advice for water supply projects. He is in the process of writing a book on the history of drinking water in Wisconsin.



Commission Members

- ❖ **Dr. James Levy, JCHSPC Member** - James is Assistant Professor of history and Director of the Public History Program at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. His specialties include African American intellectual and cultural history, history of place and race, race and ethnicity in American film and media, and a wide range of topics in oral and public history. Currently, Professor Levy serves as founding director of UW's statewide Wisconsin Farms Oral History project. Dr. Levy is currently working on a book manuscript on African American intellectuals and intellectual practice during the Progressive Era.
- ❖ **Michael Opager, JCHSPC Member** - Michael has served two terms on the Watertown Historic Preservation Commission, reviewing facade improvements in the city's historic downtown business district and approving grants to assist business owners with their projects. He has also served as the treasurer of the Watertown Olde House Society since its inception in 2007. Michael and his wife Lisa are Benefactors of the Watertown Historical Society, and are members of the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Thank You For Your Continued Support!

In closing, on behalf of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission,

I would like to thank:

Jefferson County Board Chairperson, Jim Schroeder,
and the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors,
for their continued support of our historic preservation efforts.

Additional thanks to: County Administrator, Ben Wehmeier;
Finance Director, Brian Lamers; Administrative Secretary, Tammie Jaeger;
and Central Duplicating Clerk, Kathy Hart,
for their help over the past year with the details associated with the
Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Survey/National Park Service, Sub-Grant process.

Special thanks to the
Wisconsin Historical Society staff members from the
Division of Historic Preservation and Public History
Joe DeRose - Survey and Registration Historian
Daina Penkiunas - Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Jim Draeger - Architectural Historian

Report prepared by: Cindy Arbiture, JCHSPC Chair